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Governor Baker Issues Statement on the President's Commission on Combatting Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis Final Report

BOSTON— Today, Governor Charlie Baker released the following statement on the White House's release of the President's Commission on Combatting Drug Addiction and the Opioid Crisis unanimously approved final report:

"Over the past several months, this bipartisan commission has worked diligently to produce a strong set of recommendations to the White House and Congress on ways to fight the opioid and heroin epidemic at the federal level. I am pleased that several recommendations originated from effective state policies in the Commonwealth, such as revamping the Prescription Monitoring Program to reduce opioid prescriptions and developing core competencies for medical students on pain management and addiction prevention, that now have the opportunity to be implemented nationwide.

"This report contains an extensive list of recommendations, including federal funding increases, prevention education for schools, increased access to treatment and stricter drug enforcement policies, that can start making a difference in every state if acted upon by the White House and Congress. The opioid and heroin epidemic knows no boundaries and is tragically claiming the lives of our loved ones every day, and our administration urges Washington to act quickly on our bipartisan recommendations, many of which have already yielded positive results at the state level, to break the cycle of addiction. I'd like to thank Governor Chris Christie for serving as chairman to this important commission and the White House for making the opioid epidemic a top priority for the Administration, as this public health crisis deserves attention at all levels of government to make a difference in our communities."

The bipartisan commission is chaired by New Jersey Governor Chris Christie and consists of Massachusetts Governor Charlie Baker, North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper, Former Rhode Island Congressman Patrick J. Kennedy, Florida Attorney General Pam Bondi and Professor Bertha Madras, Ph.D.

The final report will be available here:

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/ondcp/presidents-commission/meetings>

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